

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 03044 131552Z
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AID-05 SY-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 /031 W
----- 110837 /70

R 131100Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6724
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 3044

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS AID; ABIDJAN FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: APER, ASEC, MR
SUBJECT: CLEARANCE TO PUT MEMBER OF REUNIFICATION CHURCH ON AID
CONTRACT

1. IN VIEW OF URGENT NEED TO PROVIDE END-USE MONITORING SERVICES
FOR PL 480 TITLE II COMMODITIES (TO CONTINUE RECENTLY-TERMINATED
CONTRACTURAL SERVICES OF PERSON PERFORMING THIS FUNCTION) AND TO
ASSIST IN JOINT EMBASSY-AID GSO-TYPE ACTIVITIES, WHICH IN REAL
NEED OF UPGRADING, AID/MAURITANIA WISHES TO HIRE ON A 90-DAY
CONTRACTUAL BASIS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN RESIDENT IN MAURITANIA BY
NAME OF FLOYD CHRISTOFFERSON III, WHOSE HOME ADDRESS IS RR 3 OAK-

PLANES, IOWA.

2. IN OPINION AID/MAURITANIA CHRISTOFFERSON WOULD BE EXCELLENT
CANDIDATE THIS POSITION, BECAUSE OF KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH AND MAU-
RITANIA AND BECAUSE OF DEMONSTRATED QUALITIES OF RESOURCEFULNESS
AND COOPERATIVENESS, WHICH ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR GOOD PER-
FORMANCE. ALSO, NO OTHER LIKELY CANDIDATES IN SIGHT, THIS
EVALUATION IS SHARED BY EMBASSY WHICH HAD FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE
WITH CHRISTOFFERSON WHEN CHRISTOFFERSON DID SOME SMALL
GSO-TYPE JOBS FOR EMBASSY DURING FALL 1975 ON A CONTRAC-
TUAL BASIS.

3. AFTER COMPLETION OF CHRISTOFFERSON'S FALL 1975 CONTRACT,
IT CAME TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION THAT HE WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 03044 131552Z

IN MAURITANIA UNDER AUSPICES OF REVEREND MOON'S REUNI-

FICATION CHURCH. (CHRISTOFFERSON IS SUPPORTED BY GINSENG TRADING COMPANY OF 1365 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C.) AFTER COMING TO THIS CONCLUSION, EMBASSY WAS RELUCTANT TO HIRE CHRISTOFFERSON AGAIN FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) UNTIL RECENTLY SOUTH KOREA HAD NO RELATIONS WHATSOEVER WITH MAURITANIA WHILE NORTH KOREANS HAD LARGE AND EFFECTIVE PRESENCE IN NOUAKCHOTT. EMBASSY WAS CONCERNED THAT NORTH KOREANS WOULD FIND OUT ABOUT CHRISTOFFERSON'S ASSOCIATION WITH REUNIFICATION CHURCH AND BRING FACT TO ATTENTION OF GIRM, THUS CAUSING EMBARRASSING SITUATION FOR EMBASSY; (B) MUSLIM LEADERSHIP OF MAURITANIA DISCOURAGES, INDEED PROHIBITS, ALL FORMS OF NON-ISLAMIC MISSIONARY WORK. EMBASSY HAD TO ASSUME THAT CHRISTOFFERSON WAS ENGAGING IN OR PLANNED TO ENGAGE IN MISSIONARY WORK FOR REUNIFICATION CHURCH; (C) DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY OTHER FOLLOWERS IN WEST AFRICA OF REVEREND MOON HAD COME TO OUR ATTENTION. WE WERE NOT ANXIOUS TO HIRE INDIVIDUAL WHO MIGHT HAVE SIMILAR PROBLEMS WITH GOVERNMENT OF MAURITANIA.

4. CHRISTOFFERSON RECENTLY APPLIED FOR JOB DESCRIBED PARA 1 ABOVE. DCM AND AID CDO SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED CHRISTOFFERSON IF HE WERE, IN FACT, IN MAURITANIA UNDER AUSPICES OF REUNIFICATION CHURCH. HE ANSWERED AFFIRMATIVELY, ADDING THAT HE REMAINS FIRM BELIEVER IN CHURCH. HE STRONGLY DEFENDED POLICY AND POSITIONS OF CHURCH AND STATED THAT HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ITS HIGHEST LEVELS. AT SAME TIME, HE STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT HE HAD ATTEMPTED NO PROSELYTIZING IN MAURITANIA AND CLAIMED THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION TO DO SO IN FUTURE. DCM AND CDO BELIEVE CHRISTOFFERSON ANSWERED SERIES OF POINTED QUESTIONS HONESTLY AND FRANKLY. AT SAME TIME, ONE CANNOT SAY WITH ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY THAT CHRISTOFFERSON WILL REFRAIN FROM MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN FUTURE.

5. ONE BASIC EMBASSY RESERVATION -- INFLUENCE OF NORTH KOREANS IN MAURITANIA-RELATING TO HIRING OF CHRISTOFFERSON HAS BEEN ESSENTIALLY NEUTRALIZED. FOLLOWING NORTH KOREAN RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO (GROUP FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE OF WESTERN SAHARA), MAURITANIA "FROZE" RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. SMALL NORTH KOREAN MISSION, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 03044 131552Z

WHICH IS CURRENTLY HEADED BY CHARGE D' AFFAIRES, PROBABLY NO LONGER HAS DESIRE OR CAPACITY TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR LOCAL RESIDENT OF REUNIFICATION CHURCH. IN ADDITION, MAURITANIA HAS BEGUN COMMERCIAL, ESPECIALLY IN AREA OF FISHERIES, CONTACTS WITH SOUTH KOREA AND MAY EVEN PERMIT SOUTH KOREAN CONSULAR REPRESENTATIVE INTO COUNTRY.

6. BEFORE APPROVING CHRISTOFFERSON FOR JOB CITED PARA

1 ABOVE, HOWEVER, MISSION NEEDS ADVICE ON SEVERAL MATTERS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT IS USG POLICY ON HIRING SOMEONE CONNECTED WITH OVERSEAS MISSIONARY ACTIVITY? IS THERE GENERAL BAN ON HIRING PERSONS WORKING FOR MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS? IS IT FROWNED UPON? ARE THERE NO RESTRICTIONS?

7. WHAT IS POSITION OF SY-AID AND STATE-ON POSSIBLE HIRING OF CHRISTOFFERSON? WE UNDERSTAND THAT SY CANNOT GIVE POSITIVE RESPONSE SOLELY ON BASIS OF PRECEDING INFORMATION. IF, ON OTHER HAND, SY WOULD AUTOMATICALLY VETO CANDIDATE, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW NOW SO THAT WE DO NOT WASTE CONSIDERABLE TIME PROCESSING UNSUITABLE EMPLOYEE.

8. FINALLY, EMBASSY NEEDS ADVICE ON STATUS OF RECENT ALLEGATIONS IN PRESS, WHICH HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY COME TO ATTENTION OF GIRM, THAT REVEREND MOON'S ORGANIZATION IS LINKED TO SOUTH KOREAN CIA. IF THERE IS SUBSTANCE TO THESE ALLEGATIONS, WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO PUT MEMBER OF REUNIFICATION CHURCH ON MISSION PAYROLL IN NOUAKCHOTT. DUE TO PAUCITY OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US ON THIS SUBJECT, HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO MAKE MEANINGFUL EVALUATION OF THESE ALLEGATIONS.

9. WE APPRECIATE THAT ANSWERS TO SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS MAY NOT BE READILY AVAILABLE. AT SAME TIME, WE URGENTLY NEED TO FILL THIS POSITION AND WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

HANDYSIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NOUAKC03044
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760459-0497
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761248/aaaabpor.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLEARANCE TO PUT MEMBER OF REUNIFICATION CHURCH ON AID CONTRACT
TAGS: APER, ASEC, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006